



OMAN SELF DRIVE TOURS

اكتشف عمان بسيارتك

Tour "Beaches, desert and wadis"

Discovery 4x4 self-drive tour

9 days / 8 nights



Starting with some snorkelling at the Daymaniyat Islands, here is a tour focused on swimming: beaches and natural pools are plenty in this loop around the Eastern Hajar mountains, famous for their wadis. South of the range, stay in a small farm and in the Wahiba Sands and north, by the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman.

Oman Self Drive Tours

اكتشف عمان بسيارتك

PO Box 1178, PC 130, Al Azaiba, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Phone : +968 97 04 61 61 – email : contact@omanselfdrivetours.com

Ministry of Commerce CR number 1276308

Understand your travel proposition

Self drive tour

The travelers themselves will drive along all the road transfers detailed in the program as well as along possible additional transfers to reach an activity place (except for transfers with driver or guide).

Program type: "Freedom discovery"

Each day, a number of possible activities - cultural discoveries and strolls - are proposed. It is up to the travelers, during their trip, to choose which activity they are interested in depending on their wishes and the time available. The times given for each activity and each transfer are intended to give an idea as accurate as possible of what can be done in one day.

Driving level: 4x4

The itinerary includes dirt roads without major difficulty but requiring a 4x4 vehicle. Under normal conditions, anybody can drive on these roads as long as he/she respects the basic safety rules. However, unpredictable events, especially weather-related, can make these dirt roads harder to negotiate.

Possible activity

Activity not requiring prior reservation. The travelers are free to go for them or not. Most of them are free of charge.

Optional / Included activity

Paying activity requiring prior reservation. If it is a guided activity, it may involve transfers. In this case, such transfers will be arranged by the guide or a driver, with their own vehicle.

Variant

Road transfer longer than the reference transfer but of a greater interest in terms of landscape or possible activity.

Accommodation with surcharge

Hotel not included in the standard package, proposed as an upgrade of the accommodation already included that day.

Key

Transfers

-  Road
-  Scenic road
-  Plane
-  Ferry

|30min| Approx. time of transfer

|4x4| Dirt road: 4x4 required

|4x4+| Difficult dirt road: 4x4 and experience required


Landscapes (transfers & activities)

-  Mountain
-  Village/palm grove
-  Wadi
-  Town
-  Sea
-  Desert

Activities

-  Culture
-  Shopping
-  Viewpoint
-  Scenic road
-  Strolling
-  Walking/hiking
-  Canyoning
-  Bathing/swimming
-  Nature
-  Cruise

|1h-2h| Approx. time dedicated to the activity

 **|10min|** Approx. time up to the activity place (one way)

Meals

- RO** Room only
- BB** Breakfast
- HB** Half board
- FB** Full board
- L** Lunch (during an activity)

OVERVIEW OF YOUR TOUR

DAY 1 - Muscat

 Muscat International Airport to the Azaiba district | 10km-10min |

 Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Ghubrah district) | 45min-1h30 |

   Mutrah District : its corniche, souqs and fort | 1h-4h |

   Old Muscat District : Sultan's Palace & National Museum | 30min-3h |

 Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) | BB |

 Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) | RO |

DAY 2 - Snorkelling tour to the Daymaniyat Islands and night in the Sinaw region

   Snorkelling at the Daymaniyat Islands | 5h30 |  10km-15min

 Muscat to Fanja | 50km-45min |

 Fanja to Khadra bani Daffa | 100km-1h15 |

 Homestay (Khadra bani Daffa) | HB |

DAY 3 - The Dima wa At Tayeen region

 Khadra bani Daffa to the Wadi Tayeen (via the Wadi Dima) | 110km-1h55 |

  Wadi Dima and village of Ad Dyrah | 20min-1h30 | 4x4 |

   Wadi Tayeen : Madbagah palm grove and Al Hammam castle | 40min-2h |

 Mihlah to Ismayiyah, along the Wadis Tayeen and Khabbah | 40km-50min |

  Wadi Tool : walk and swim in the Devil's Gap | 1h30-2h30 |

 Ismayiyah to Romail | 55km-1h | 4x4 |

 Hotel ** (Romail) | HB |

DAY 4 - Wadi bani Khalid and Wahiba Sands

  Upper Wadi bani Khalid : Muqal pool | 1h-2h |  30km-40min

  Short aquatic hike in the Wadi bani Khalid (Bidah) | 2h-3h |  25km-35min

  Lower Wadi bani Khalid : village and palm grove of Al Baatan | 1h-3h |  25km-25min









 Romail to Bidiyah | 15km-10min |

 Bidiyah to your desert camp (with a driver) | 20km-30min | 4x4+ |















 Walking in the Wahiba desert | 30min-2h |

 Desert camp ** (Wahiba North) Room Fully private setup | HB |













DAY 5 - From the Wahiba desert to the Indian Ocean

-  Your camp to Bidiyah |20km-30min|4x4+|
-  Bidiyah to Al Kamil |60km-40min|
-  Al Kamil to Ras al Hadd : From desert to Indian Ocean |135km-2h|
-  Jaalan bani bu Ali fort and Al Hamooda mosque |30min|  5km-10min
-  Ras al Jinz Turtle Reserve |1h|  20km-20min
-  Hotel *** (Ras al Hadd) Room Hamoor |HB|








DAY 6 - From Ras al Hadd to Tiwi

-    Ras al Wudayyah beach |45min-1h30|  30km-30min
-  Ras al Hadd to Sur |40km-45min|
-    Town of Sur |1h-3h|
-  Sur to Tiwi : Along the Gulf of Oman |50km-45min|
-    Wadi Tiwi |1h-5h|4x4|
-  Guesthouse (Tiwi) |BB|
-  Homestay (Fins) |HB|

DAY 7 - Between sea and mountains

-   Wadi Shab |1h-3h|
-  Tiwi to Al Hajir |125km-1h15|
-   Fins beach, coastal road and gazelle reserve |30min-1h|  10km-15min
-    Wadi al Arbiyeen and Wadi al Hail |2h-4h|4x4|
-  Al Hajir to Yiti : The Wadi Mayh |20km-30min|4x4|
-  Yiti to Qantab |10km-10min|
-  House (Qantab) |RO|
-  Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|
-  Hotel **** (Sifah) Room Sifawy |BB|

DAY 8 - Day to relax

-    Bandar Khiran and the coast south-east of Muscat |1h-3h|
-   Kayak and snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve
-  House (Qantab) |RO|
-  Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|

DAY 9 - Relax and departure

 Qantab to Muscat International Airport |45km-50min|

PROGRAMME OF YOUR TOUR

DAY 1 - Muscat

Arrival in Muscat International Airport.

Welcome and briefing with our agent. He hands over the documents and equipment for the tour and assists you with the rental car pick-up.

Full day to visit Muscat and its surroundings.

Transfer



Muscat International Airport to the Azaiba district | 10km-10min |



Along the sea, short drive from the airport to Azaiba, a residential district in the western side of the capital city.



Possible activity



Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Ghubrah district) | 45min-1h30 |

A magnificent mosque, the largest of the country and the only one allowed to non-muslim visitors. The main praying hall, famous for its huge chandelier, is truly spectacular.

Audioguides are available for an in-depth discovery (2 OMR per person).



Possible activity



Mutrah District : its corniche, souqs and fort | 1h-4h |



This historic district is the most interesting in the capital for tourists, with its beautiful sea-front (the so-called Corniche), its famous souq, its fish and vegetable market and even a short trekking path.



Possible activity

Old Muscat District : Sultan's Palace & National Museum |30min-3h|



A few kilometres from Mutrah, with its numerous mosques and government buildings, this small district is the actual capital of Oman, from which extended the whole city. You can enjoy this quiet place by a short stroll around the Sultan Palace.

This is also where the National Museum is located. Open to the public since the end of 2016, it displays rich collections describing Oman history. The artefacts, on show in bright rooms, are arranged according to the period they belong to, from prehistory to nowadays, or sorted by theme as in the Maritime Gallery.



Accommodation

Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) |BB|

Two big villas converted into a guesthouse with 10 comfortable and tastefully-decorated rooms.

Located in a posh neighbourhood, it is only a 5-min walk to the Azaiba beach, where swimming wearing swimsuit is possible. Right next to it lies a small park with playgrounds as well as a café with sea view and food trucks where young Omanis sell grilled food in the evening.

It is only a 10-min drive to the airport, 15 min to the Grand Mosque and about half an hour to the historic districts (Mutrah, Old Muscat).

The guesthouse has a 22-m long swimming pool and 2 living rooms. Breakfast can be eaten al fresco close to the pool.



Accommodation with surcharge



Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) |RO|

Nice and modern apartment extremely well located, 150 m away from Saruj beach, probably the most beautiful beach of Muscat, and less than 5-min walking away from the many cafés and restaurants of Al Muntazah street, one of the trendiest areas of Muscat since the opening of the Water-Front in 2019. Here the seaside is nicely landscaped, with a promenade lined with lawn and trees running along the beach for 1.3 km. To the west, the beach continues in front of the embassies for 2 km. To the east, cross a (dry) wadi and you reach Shati al Qurum beach, 1.5-km long and nicely landscaped too. It is possible to swim wearing swimsuit on these beaches but, as they are popular with locals, it is recommended to cover up once out of the water.

From the first floor of a small building, the apartment offers a view on the Gulf of Oman. It has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining room and a kitchen. It is in the middle of the city of Muscat, halfway between the airport and the historical district of Mutrah (both 20 min away). The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque lies 15-min away by car.



DAY 2 - Snorkelling tour to the Daymaniyat Islands and night in the Sinaw region

In the morning, you go to the marina. Boat crossing up to the Daymaniyat archipelago, snorkelling and return in the early afternoon.

Then you leave the capital city. The highway takes you south of the Hajar mountain range.

Included activity

10km-15min

Snorkelling at the Daymaniyat Islands |5h30|



From the marina with the best location in the capital, 40-minute boat crossing to the pretty Daymaniyat Islands. Protected as a natural reserve, they have some of the best snorkelling and diving sites of the Muscat region. Swimming and snorkelling with the plentiful multi coloured fishes (fins, masks and snorkels provided). From November to April (out of turtle nesting season), it is also possible to go on the islands. Transfer back in the early afternoon.

Beware, the trip can be cancelled in case of rough sea.



Transfer



Muscat to Fanja | 50km-45min |



From Muscat, the highway goes south and passes between the first low mountains of the Samail Gap.

Transfer



Fanja to Khadra bani Daffa | 100km-1h15 |



A highway opened since 2020 and a road run through large massifs of low rocky mountains.

Accommodation



Homestay (Khadra bani Daffa) | HB |

Small cultivation and bee-keeping farm located just outside the big village of Khadra bani Daffa. It is ideally situated on the road between the Western Hajar (Nizwa, Al Hamra) and the Wahiba desert as well as on the one between the north of the country and the Huqf region (Sugar Dunes).

The farm has 6 guest rooms of basic comfort. Yonis, the owner, will warmly welcome you and can show you his crops (dates, citrus, bananas, vegetables), his animals and his beehives.

The traditional meals are cooked from the farm products.



DAY 3 - The Dima wa At Tayeen region

You drive to the foot of the Eastern Hajar range to discover the beautiful and little-known region of Dima wa At Tayeen. There you explore, by car and by foot, several large wadis, some of them with natural pools in which you can swim. Palm groves are plenty and the views on the mountains are superb.

You eventually leave the region to sleep in Romail, between the mountains and the Wahiba Sands.

Transfer

Khadra bani Daffa to the Wadi Tayeen (via the Wadi Dima) | 110km-1h55|



You leave the desert plain and drive into the ophiolitic massif north-east of Khadra bani Daffa. The road climbs to a small pass and go down into the valley of the Wadi Dima, lined by palm groves. It takes you to the big village of Mihlah, located at the confluence with the large Wadi Tayeen.



Possible activity along the transfer

Wadi Dima and village of Ad Dyrah | 20min-1h30|4x4|



Stop at the superb viewpoint upon the village of Ad Dyrah and its palm grove. You can also follow a short dirt road up to some beautiful and big pools where swimming is possible. Depending on the last rains, one of them may present an amazing colour.



Possible activity

Wadi Tayeen : Madbagah palm grove and Al Hammam castle | 40min-2h|



Short return drive along the most scenic part of the Wadi Tayeen, with its palm groves set at the foot of the high Jebel Abyad and Al Hammam castle, artistically built on top of a rock.

At Madbagah, you can go for a short walk to discover the beautiful hidden palm grove of the village, only accessible by foot.



Transfer

Mihlah to Ismayiyah, along the Wadis Tayeen and Khabbah |40km-50min|



This nice road follows le Wadi Tayeen and then the Wadi Khabbah, both flowing right at the foot of the high Eastern Hajar mountains. Along the way, you drive past several villages, their beautiful palm groves and next to the spectacular canyon of the Wadi Tool.



Possible activity along the transfer

Wadi Tool : walk and swim in the Devil's Gap |1h30-2h30|



The wadi with the highest flow in Oman dug an impressive valley that crosses the mountains. The walk along the canyon floor is easy up to the "Devil's Gap", where the water sneaks between huge boulders obstructing the valley. With a little bit of scramble, you reach a small pool... but the adventure is just starting: swim into the gaps between the boulders and you arrive at other pools, much larger and really nicer!



Transfer

Ismayiyah to Romail |55km-1h|4x4|



The road takes you away from the Eastern Hajar range and towards the Wahiba Sands. The hills are progressively replaced by a small plain, located between the mountains and the dunes, where lies the village of Romail.



Accommodation



Hotel ** (Romail) | HB |

Small and comfortable hotel located near the Wahiba Sands and the Eastern Hajar mountains. It is ideally located to visit the Wadi bani Khalid.



DAY 4 - Wadi bani Khalid and Wahiba Sands

From Romail, two roads can lead you to different parts of the Wadi bani Khalid. Note that the Muqal pool is particularly touristic (with visitors and locals).

Then you drive back out of the mountains and into the Wahiba Sands, where you find your accommodation.

Possible activity

30km-40min



Upper Wadi bani Khalid : Muqal pool | 1h-2h |



This large pool, between the Muqal palm grove and the gorge of the wadi, has been developed for tourism and is highly appreciated by locals who come there for picnics at weekends. The setting is magnificent and it is possible to walk along the wadi or go up a donkey path for a bird's eye view of the place.

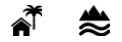


Possible activity

🚗 25km-35min



Short aquatic hike in the Wadi bani Khalid (Bidah) |2h-3h|



Walk down a little-visited part of the Wadi bani Khalid.

You first walk through a beautiful palm grove. Then, you enter a large canyon and reach a section equipped with chains thanks to which you climb a few metres. You keep walking on the wadi bed, on pebbles and boulders, sometimes using your hands to scramble on the rocks. You wade and, depending on the last rains, you swim through pristine pools.

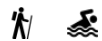
You eventually arrive to a big and beautiful natural pool with a waterfall, where you take some time to swim.

The way back is the same.

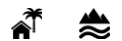


Possible activity

🚗 25km-25min



Lower Wadi bani Khalid : village and palm grove of Al Baatan |1h-3h|



The small village of Al Baatan has a very beautiful palm grove along the Wadi bani Khalid. The walk, along a falaj winding between palm and mango trees, is very pleasant and gives access to a small natural pool (depending on the last floods).

It is also possible to proceed on a rocky path up to a larger pool.



Transfer



Romail to Bidiyah |15km-10min|



Short transfer on a highway along a narrow plain between dunes and mountains.

Transfer



Bidiyah to your desert camp (with a driver) | 20km-30min | 4x4+ |



Leave your car at Bidiyah where a driver from the camp will meet you.

The 9-km drive in the dunes is a first contact with the Wahiba desert. You first proceed along "valleys", between long orange dunes about 50 meters in height, then you climb the one on top of which sits your camp.



Possible activity



Walking in the Wahiba desert | 30min-2h |



What a delight to walk out of the camp and climb up the nearby dunes to watch the sun sink behind the horizon! But the grazing light in the early morning over the orange sand undulations is most appealing too...



Accommodation



Desert camp ** (Wahiba North) Room Fully private setup | HB |



DAY 5 - From the Wahiba desert to the Indian Ocean

When leaving a sand desert, what could be more enjoyable than swimming in a wadi or strolling in the shadow of a lush palm grove? Between the north and the east of the Wahiba, two detours can lead you to different parts of the Wadi bani Khalid.

Note that the Muqal pool is particularly touristic (with visitors and locals).

Then you drive through the towns located at the north-east of the Wahiba. The road then crosses a mineral landscape up to the coast and follows it to eventually arrive at the village of Ras al Hadd, where your accommodation is. The Ras al Jinz turtle reserve lies nearby.

Transfer



Your camp to Bidiyah | 20km-30min | 4x4+ |



You go back out of the dunes (on your own if drove in, with a driver if you left your car in Bidiyah).



Transfer



Bidiyah to Al Kamil | 60km-40min |



The road follows a narrow plain between the Eastern Hajar mountains and the Wahiba dunes.

Transfer



Al Kamil to Ras al Hadd : From desert to Indian Ocean | 135km-2h |



A road traversing very varied landscapes! Starting between the desert and the mountain, it comes to an end along the beaches and cliffs of the Indian Ocean after passing through typical towns of the region and a few dunes.





Jaalan bani bu Ali fort and Al Hamooda mosque |30min|



One of the largest non-restored forts in Oman, Jaalan bani bu Ali fort is really impressive. Part of the structure collapsed but there still are important remains, including the central keep. Very close to the fort lies a surprising old mosque with 52 small domes.



Optional activity



Ras al Jinz Turtle Reserve |1h|



Guided visit organised by the reserve, which protects 40 km of coastline and the turtles that come there to lay eggs. On the beach, watch the females that crawl out of the water, at night, to dig out their nests and lay some one hundred eggs before heading back to the high sea.



Accommodation

🏠 Hotel *** (Ras al Hadd) Room Hamoor |HB|

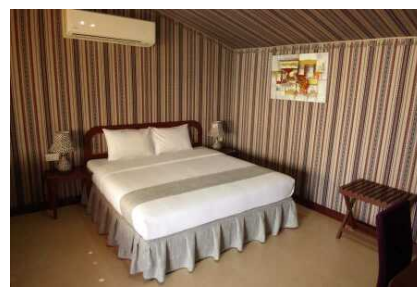
Hotel opened in the end of 2017. For the sea view and the beach, it is the best located hotel in the Ras al Hadd/Ras al Jinz region. Built on a small rocky tip between the Gulf of Oman and the Ras al Hadd laguna, it is surrounded on 3 sides by the sea.

There is a direct access to the long and beautiful Ras al Hadd beach, which ends at the foot of the hotel. Even if it is used by the village fishermen, it is possible to swim next to the hotel. The hotel also has a swimming pool, a bar and a children playground.

The rocks in front of the hotel are a good snorkelling spot. If you don't have your own equipment, you can rent some for 5 OMR at Arabian Sea Adventures, located on the beach 300 m away from the hotel. They also rent kayaks (from 5 OMR) and organise boat trips.

The village of Ras al Hadd is a few minutes away by car and the centre from which is organised the turtle watching is 20 minutes away.

The Hamoor rooms are comfortable and decorated in an Omani style. Each has a terrace with table and chairs.



DAY 6 - From Ras al Hadd to Tiwi

Day along the Omani north-eastern coast.

You first go past the town of Sur, famous for its dhow factory (traditional Arab boats). Do not miss the viewpoint over this town with such a distinctive geography.

Then, in close proximity to your accommodation, two wadis close to each other await: Tiwi and Shab. The Wadi Shab, the most famous, is ideal for swimming, but may be very crowded by mid-morning, especially at weekends (if possible, better go early the next morning). The Wadi Tiwi, less accessible and a little less touristic, is surely wilder and more spectacular.

Possible activity

🚗 30km-30min|4x4|

🐢 🌊 🗺️ Ras al Wudayyah beach |45min-1h30|



In the south of the Ras al Jinz reserve, this long wild beach is accessible by a bad dirt road and then a steep path going down from the top of the cliffs. The beach is one of the nocturnal nesting site of the sea turtles but, as it is located inside the reserve, it is forbidden to go there during the night. This said, if you arrive at sunrise, you may have the chance to watch the last mothers covering her eggs and crawling back to the sea. And contrary to the night-time visits organised at the Ras al Jinz beach itself, the chances are good for you to be the only tourists here! It is also possible to swim from this beach when the sea is not rough.



Transfer



Ras al Hadd to Sur |40km-45min|



From the Indian Ocean to the Oman Gulf, the road runs along the Khawr Grama laguna and across a plateau before reaching the beach of Sur.



Possible activity



Town of Sur |1h-3h|



A lovely seaside city, Sur is one of the few Omani towns that is worth a visit. Its strategic position – a peninsula between the sea and a laguna – and its old white houses with beautiful doors add up to bring about a real touch of charm. The last traditional dhow building yard is located here – a must visit! As a fishing town, its fish souq is worth a look. Finally, a watchtower perched on a hill provides a superb view of the area.



Transfer



Sur to Tiwi : Along the Gulf of Oman |50km-45min|



The highway runs along the coastline, squeezed between the Gulf of Oman and the Eastern Hajar, providing very nice views of the sea and the mountains.



Possible activity

   **Wadi Tiwi |1h-5h|4x4|**



Discover this fantastic wadi first by car. The road, sometimes at the bottom of the valley, sometimes on the heights, offers spectacular views over the palm-fringed wadi bed and its natural pools nestled among huge boulders fallen down from the high cliffs on each side.

Thanks to several paths, including a marked trail, you can discover at a slower pace the four villages of the wadi and their palm groves.



Accommodation

 **Guesthouse (Tiwi) |BB|**

New house, located outside the village of Tiwi and right next to a long pebble beach. It is made of 6 spacious and comfortable rooms, of which 2 have a view to the sea (we book these first) and it has a small swimming pool.

It is possible to swim with swimsuit in front of the guesthouse or a little further, depending on the presence of local visitors on the beach. If you have your own snorkelling equipment, the rocks at the end of the beach host many fishes.

The house is ideally situated to visit the Wadis Shab and Tiwi, only a few minutes away by car.

For dinner, you can use the shared kitchen or go and eat in one of the local restaurants in the village (the closest ones are 1.5 km away, near the Wadi Shab).



Accommodation with surcharge



Homestay (Fins) |HB|

Sophie and Hussain, a Franco-Omani couple, welcome you to their home! Their modern house, located in a recent neighbourhood of the fishermen's village of Fins, is comfortable and tastefully decorated. The house has 5 guest bedrooms, 3 of which open onto a balcony offering a view on the sea, which lies 200 m away. You will also have access to a small sitting area, a "majlis" (Arab sitting room), a dining room and the courtyard, where you will find 2 "areesh" (outdoor sitting areas traditionally covered by palm leaves).

The meals served by your hosts will be the opportunity to exchange with them. However, note that, from September 2024, Sophie and Hussain will share their time between Muscat and Fins. So they will not necessarily be present during your stay at their home (in which case the meals will be prepared by friends from the village).

Here the coast is rocky but beaches are reachable in a few minutes by car. The wadis Shab and Tiwi are a 15-minute drive away.



DAY 7 - Between sea and mountains

Day dedicated to the discovery of the Eastern Hajar coast.

On the mountain side, apart from the Wadis Tiwi and Shab, you can make detours, on the way to Muscat, on nice dirt roads to discover the Wadis al Arbiyeen and Dayqah. The former is a spectacular valley with pools to swim in. The latter has the largest dam lake of Oman, an unexpected vision in this mineral landscape.

On the sea side, a pretty road follows the coast between the beaches of Fins and Dhabab, crossing a small gazelle reserve.

Shortly before reaching Muscat, you leave the highway to cross the Jebel abu Daud up the sea and your accommodation.

Possible activity



Wadi Shab |1h-3h|



The most famous wadi in Oman ! Leave your car right under the highway and start walking upstream on the mostly dry river bed. Marvel at this deep canyon and reach the first pools. Continue further along the base of the cliff and between the small boulders until you cannot avoid swimming... up to an incredible small pool with a waterfall hidden under some huge rocks !



Transfer



Tiwi to Al Hajir | 125km-1h15 |



The highway, first running between the sea and the mountains, goes past the entrance of the Wadi al Arbiyeen, then veers inland to find a way around the Jebel abu Daud massif.



Possible activity along the transfer

10km-15min



Fins beach, coastal road and gazelle reserve | 30min-1h |



Close to the fishermen's village of Fins is a superb white pebble beach with turquoise waters. The road that goes along the coast between Fins and the Wadi al Arbiyeen is worth the detour for its nice views upon the sea. It also passes through a protected area hosting some gazelles.



Possible activity along the transfer



Wadi al Arbiyeen and Wadi al Hail | 2h-4h | 4x4 |



From the seaside, drive inside the mountains on the dirt road running along the bed of this spectacular wadi, dotted with some villages and palm groves. Next to the village of As Suwayh, a very large pool with a waterfall awaits you to swim. A nice walk along the wadi is also possible from there.

The way back to the coast is by another road.



Transfer



Al Hajir to Yiti : The Wadi Mayh | 20km-30min | 4x4 |



Cross the Jebel Abu Daud mountains via the spectacular Wadi Mayh. First a narrow canyon, the valley widens and you discover small villages and their palm gardens. You cannot believe you are so close to Muscat !



Transfer



Yiti to Qantab | 10km-10min |



From the Wadi Mayh, the road keeps crossing the coastal massif up to the bay where lie the fishermen's village of Qantab and its pretty beach.



Accommodation



House (Qantab) | RO |

Small private house located in the fishermen's village of Qantab, only 50 m away from a beautiful beach. It is an old Omani house, beautifully restored, made very comfortable and decorated in a local style.

The house has 2 bedrooms, a living/dining room, a kitchen and 2 bathrooms. The manager, a European lady who has lived in Oman for many years, stays next door. A beautiful shared courtyard has an outdoor sitting area and offers a nice view upon the sea.

No meals are served at the house: you can prepare your own meals in the well-equipped kitchen, order at the coffeshop (very basic restaurant) of the village (700 m away from the house) or go to one of the restaurants in the nearby hotels, in the village of Sidab or in Muscat (respectively 10, 15 and 20 min driving).

The main beach is used by the fishermen but it is possible to swim wearing a swimsuit (please cover up when out of the water). There is a second smaller beach, only 250 m away from the house, where you can have greater privacy (though it is quite rocky). Another option is to ask to a fisherman to drop you on one of the small beaches found in the coves to the east of the village (10-15 OMR).



Accommodation with surcharge



Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|

Simple tented camp located on the long and very beautiful Sifah beach, surrounded by the Gulf of Oman on one side and by the Jebel Abu Daud mountains on the other. The beach lies one-hour drive at the south-east of Muscat, at the very end of the winding road passing by the Bandar Khiran marine reserve. The camp is 200 m north of the village of Sifah and it is possible to swim wearing swimsuit in front of the tents. The beach continues for more than one km northwards up to some cliffs and for 2 km southwards, passing in front of the village. Further, the coast becomes rockier and you arrive at the Jebel Sifah complex with its marina, hotel, apartments and fancy restaurants.

The camp is made up of 7 large tents, all overlooking the sea. Each tent has beds, armchairs, fridge, fan and air-conditioner, as well as a shaded terrace with table, chairs and barbecue (wood/charcoal not provided). Behind each tent is a simple bathroom. Kitchen areas with gas cookers are at disposal.

You will find in your tent food for breakfast. For the other meals, you can cook yourself or go to one of the few coffeeshops of the village: the nearest is a 700-m walk from the camp and there is a nicer option 5 min away by car (Ertewa Café). Just a little further, the marina offers Turkish, Japanese and seafood restaurants as well as a bakery/sandwich shop. If you plan to cook, a small food shop lies 700 m away from the camp but, for meat, better do some shopping before driving to Sifah.

Sifah is a popular weekend/public holiday destination for people living in Muscat. Then the beach north of the camp can be crowded with campers and groups coming to party or picnic. The area is much quieter during the week, in other words from Saturday evening to Thursday afternoon.



Accommodation with surcharge

🏠 Hotel **** (Sifah) Room Sifawy |BB|

Medium-size hotel, located in a seaside complex developed around a marina, near the fishermen's village of Sifah. It lies one-hour drive at the south-east of Muscat, at the very end of the winding road passing by the Bandar Khiran marine reserve. The site is superb: on one side the Gulf of Oman, on the other the Jebel Abu Daud mountains.

The hotel has a swimming pool with an outside jacuzzi, a spa and tennis courts. The small private beach of the resort, a pebble beach with sunbeds, is a 10-min walk away from the hotel along the marina. A beach club (very pretty private beach and beautiful restaurant) is found 3 km south of the hotel (minimum consumption of 10 OMR/person). The hotel can organise transfers by club car. Driving 10 min to the north, you can also reach the long and beautiful public Sifah beach (to be avoided on weekends and public holidays).

In the hotel and around the marina, there are around 10 restaurants and bars (international, Turkish, Japanese, seafood, bakery/sandwich shop). One of the restaurants has a superb infinity pool (minimum consumption of 20 OMR/couple). For more reasonable prices, a coffeeshop located outside the resort (3 min by car) offers local food (Ertewa Café).

The marina also has a diving club offering boat trips (diving, snorkelling, dolphin watching).

The Sifawy rooms, elegant and spacious (34 m²), have a balcony overlooking the pool.



DAY 8 - Day to relax

Full day to enjoy your accommodation and the area.

Possible activity

🚶 🏊 🌊 Bandar Khiran and the coast south-east of Muscat |1h-3h|



Discover by car and by foot this surprising coast, meeting of the mountains and the sea, with its small coves and islands, occasionally fringed with mangrove or beaches (some from where swimming and snorkelling is possible). Bandar Khiran, the jewel of this coast, offers some very beautiful viewpoints. Sifah, at the very end of the road, has a very beautiful beach.

Note that these sites get very crowded with inhabitants of Muscat during the weekends (Fridays-Saturdays).



Optional activity



Kayak and snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve



The Bandar Khiran reserve may be the most beautiful part of the coast south of Muscat. It is the meeting point of the mountains and the ocean, that formed many islands and coves with small mangroves and beaches.

Rental of (single or double) kayaks to discover this bay well protected from the swell of the open sea (starting from 5 OMR). You can stop on beaches, swim and watch the tropical fishes (you can also rent masks and snorkels).



Accommodation



House (Qantab) |RO|

Small private house located in the fishermen's village of Qantab, only 50 m away from a beautiful beach. It is an old Omani house, beautifully restored, made very comfortable and decorated in a local style.

The house has 2 bedrooms, a living/dining room, a kitchen and 2 bathrooms. The manager, a European lady who has lived in Oman for many years, stays next door. A beautiful shared courtyard has an outdoor sitting area and offers a nice view upon the sea.

No meals are served at the house: you can prepare your own meals in the well-equipped kitchen, order at the coffeshop (very basic restaurant) of the village (700 m away from the house) or go to one of the restaurants in the nearby hotels, in the village of Sidab or in Muscat (respectively 10, 15 and 20 min driving).

The main beach is used by the fishermen but it is possible to swim wearing a swimsuit (please cover up when out of the water). There is a second smaller beach, only 250 m away from the house, where you can have greater privacy (though it is quite rocky). Another option is to ask to a fisherman to drop you on one of the small beaches found in the coves to the east of the village (10-15 OMR).





Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|

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Accommodation with surcharge



Hotel **** (Sifah) Room Sifawy |BB|

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The marina also has a diving club offering boat trips (diving, snorkelling, dolphin watching).

The Sifawy rooms, elegant and spacious (34 m²), have a balcony overlooking the pool.



DAY 9 - Relax and departure

Day to enjoy your accommodation and the area.

Then transfer to the airport and departure.

Transfer



Qantab to Muscat International Airport |45km-50min|



Drive back to Muscat and the airport using a nice coastal road then crossing the whole capital city from east to west.

Rental car drop-off.



PRICES / TERMS AND CONDITIONS

01/10/2024 - 30/04/2025

Number of people	2	4
Price per person in double room (in OMR)	605	430
Kia Sportage or similar (9 days)	1	1

Options and extras (prices per person)	
Accommodation upgrade on day 1 Appartement (Saruj district, Muscat) RO 	5 OMR
Ras al Jinz Turtle Reserve on day 5	8 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 6 Maison d'hôtes (Fins) HB 	15 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 7 (2 nights) Beach camp (Sifah) BB 	from 5 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 7 (2 nights) Hotel**** (Sifah) Room Sifawy BB 	from 30 OMR

Prices valid at the dates and for the types of room mentioned above.

These prices are given in Omani rials (OMR).

For conversion into another currency, you can use www.xe.com. Note that these conversions do not include bank fees and transfer charges.

Note that this document is an quote and that no reservation has been made to this day.

Prices are therefore subject to changes in accordance with the availability of accommodations, vehicles and guides at the time of the reservation. Insofar as possible, we offer alternatives of equivalent quality and cost in the event of unavailability.

Proposed vehicle (non contractual photo)



Kia Sportage

SUV 4x4 2.4L automatic



Toyota Fortuner

SUV 4x4 2.7L automatic



The price of the tour includes:

- The VAT
- Meet and greet service and rental car pick up assistance
- Your travel documents (including your roadbook)
- A cultural guidebook
- The whole self drive tour recorded in a GPS application
- An Oman road map (and a Muscat road map if required by the programme)
- A mobile phone with credit for 1 hour of local calls
- Phone assistance by our local agency throughout your trip
- Accommodations as mentioned in the programme
- Meals at the accommodations as mentioned in the programme along with each accommodation (cf. key)
- Lunches on guided days
- Bottled water in hotels
- A small cool box
- If the programme includes wild camping on your own, the camping equipment including:
 - Tent, thick mattresses, small table, stools, large mat for a traditional set-up, lamp
 - Gas stove, cooking and eating utensils, barbecue grill and utensils (if requested)

- Basins, water jerrycans, dishwashing liquid
 - Some basic food: rice, pasta, tea, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, spices, oil
 - Included activities as mentioned in the programme
 - For each included guided activity:
 - The guide
 - The car(s) and driver(s) if required for this activity
 - Safety and camping equipment (tents, mattresses, kitchenware) if required for this activity
 - Included transfers with driver or guide as mentioned in the program
 - The rental of the above-mentioned vehicle(s), for the above-mentioned period of time, with:
 - 2 possible drivers
 - Unlimited kilometres
 - Comprehensive insurance (excluding tyres and glass): zero excess in case of damage (provided you get a police report)

Caution: Damages occurred when driving off roads or off trails clearly marked on the terrain are not covered by the insurance (particularly when driving on sand).
 - Carbon offsetting for the mileage driven during your tour
- On completion of your trip, we grant our specialist partner a certain amount in order to offset the CO2 emitted during your drives. To go further, you can also offset your flight emissions through www.myclimate.org.*

The price of the tour does not include:

- International flights
 - Tourist visa fees: as at 01/09/2021 and for most nationalities, free for 14 days or visa 26B for 30 days at 20 OMR (per person)
- Check visa issuing formalities on <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/en/visa-eligibility>.*
- Passports must be valid at least 6 months after the return date.*
- Meals not included in the program (from 1.5 OMR per person in small restaurants or 5 OMR at hotels)
 - Beverages
 - Sleeping bags and personal camping equipment (headlight) if required
 - If the programme includes wild camping on your own, a 50 OMR deposit to be left cash at reception of the camping equipment, refundable at restitution
 - Entrance fees, if any, of the “possible activities” mentioned in the program (forts and museums: 1 to 5 OMR pp)
 - Tips to guides and drivers, if any
 - Personal expenses
 - Fuel for your self-driven car(s) (approx. 30 to 50 OMR per car and per week of tour)
 - The rental car refundable deposit: the amount of 125 OMR per vehicle is blocked on your credit card but not debited
 - Fines for driving offenses (speed cameras notably)
 - Tyre repair or replacement fees in case of puncture ; broken glass repair or replacement
 - The cost of repairing damages suffered by the rental cars if not justified by a police report
 - Your personal repatriation insurance
 - Your medical insurance